

University of Mississippi

eGrove

Mississippi Education Collection

General Special Collections

1954

Mississippi's Colleges are Living on Borrowed Time!

University of Mississippi

Follow this and additional works at: https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ms_educ



Part of the [Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

University of Mississippi, "Mississippi's Colleges are Living on Borrowed Time!" (1954). *Mississippi Education Collection*. 105.

https://egrove.olemiss.edu/ms_educ/105

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the General Special Collections at eGrove. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mississippi Education Collection by an authorized administrator of eGrove. For more information, please contact egrove@olemiss.edu.

Equalization An Additional Burden

Mississippi during the current biennium has made a tremendous effort to equalize educational opportunities for elementary and secondary school pupils. The state funds for this purpose have been increased by 60% over the amount provided two years ago. The benefits to be derived from this expansion cannot be realized fully unless Negro schools of high quality are provided at all levels of education.

Since 1940 Mississippi has increased its enrollment of Negro college students from 455 in a single state supported institution to 1687 in three institutions. A beginning has been made in graduate education with an enrollment of 83 in one graduate program. The increased funds requested will move toward equalization in salary scales at all institutions, will expand the graduate program, will provide administrators for the new Negro public schools to be established under the new State program and will give instruction in Negro colleges to approximately 2500 Negro students.

What You Can Do

You can see that this information is given to the members of the legislature and to the public.

You can work with the county united alumni organizations in behalf of the institutions.

Act now. Contact others who are interested in the welfare of higher education in Mississippi. Write the College Presidents or the Chancellor of the University for further aid and information. Additional copies of this folder will be mailed on request.

Sincerely yours,

The Joint Alumni Committee for the General
Support of State Institutions of Higher Learning:

Duke H. Thornton, Chmn.—Jackson	Chandler P. Worley Jackson
Sam P. Carter, V-Chmn.—Quitman	H. L. Nowell, Cleveland
Mrs. N. L. McHaney Sec.—Columbus	V. B. Wheeler, Wheeler
Frank Everette, Vicksburg	Powell G. Ogletree, Hattiesburg
B. U. Jones, Laurel	Wm. S. Griffin, University
Moran M. Pope, Hattiesburg	B. F. Smith, Stoneville
Lamar Beavers, Cleveland	Mrs. Ben Stallings, Jackson
Mrs. M. L. Leftwich, Gunnison	Bob Williams, State College
	Mrs. Ross Moore, Jackson

Mississippi Teachers



UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI
University, Mississippi

SEC. 34.65 (e)
P.L.R.

MARY JO AUSTIN
BOX 803
UNIVERSITY, MISSISSIPPI

MISSISSIPPI'S COLLEGES

ARE LIVING ON
BORROWED TIME!

...Time Borrowed

From Underpaid Faculty Members

BUT TIME IS
RUNNING OUT

Faculty Salaries—Everybody's Problem

It is in the interests of all the people of our state who otherwise will find their colleges deteriorating in quality and failing to meet the standards expected of them.

Our state's economy is dependent upon its utilization of its many resources. Certainly, the young people of the state are an important part of these resources. We must provide them with proper training that they can best serve themselves and their communities.

What better investment, than to invest in the minds of men—so that they may invent, alter, and improve. Without teachers and researchers of high quality, there cannot be students and graduates of high quality. This is the compelling reason behind the plea of our colleges for funds to place their salary schedules on a competitive basis.

Competition For Brains

As further indication of the extent to which faculty salaries are out of line, note below the starting salaries of recent graduates accepting positions in industry:

Engineering	\$4500
Geology	4500
Accounting	4200
General Business	4000

Let's compare these salaries with those received by full-time faculty members with much greater training and experience. At the present time, the average salary for an Instructor at the five white state institutions of higher learning is approximately \$3,000; the average salary of an Assistant Professor is approximately \$3,900, with no assurance of employment in the three summer months.

Recent graduates with Master's degrees have been offered and have accepted salaries in industry greater than salaries paid to the very faculty members who taught them. At their present salary scales, our state colleges cannot afford to hire their own graduates.

Not only are starting salaries greater in industry but industry, as a rule, provides more "fringe" benefits, as well as being more liberal in the frequency with which salaries are increased. Many companies provide for regular raises as length of service increases.

Breakdown of Budget Request

The amount requested by the institutions of higher learning for the Biennium of 1956-58 for the support and interest fund is \$14,300,000 or an increase of

\$4,000,000. It is proposed that this increase will be expended for the following purposes:

	Annually	Biennially
Salary increases existing staff	750,000	1,500,000
Equalization increases and new staff personnel	575,000	1,150,000
Other instructional costs for equalization and expansion	200,000	400,000
Increased maintenance of buildings	300,000	600,000
Research and Foundation Matching Funds	175,000	350,000
	2,000,000	4,000,000

If these funds are granted they will provide substantial relief. They will not raise expenditures for higher education in Mississippi up to the average per student appropriation in twelve southern states. If the request were sufficient to equal the average of the South it would be \$15,520,000.00 for the biennium.

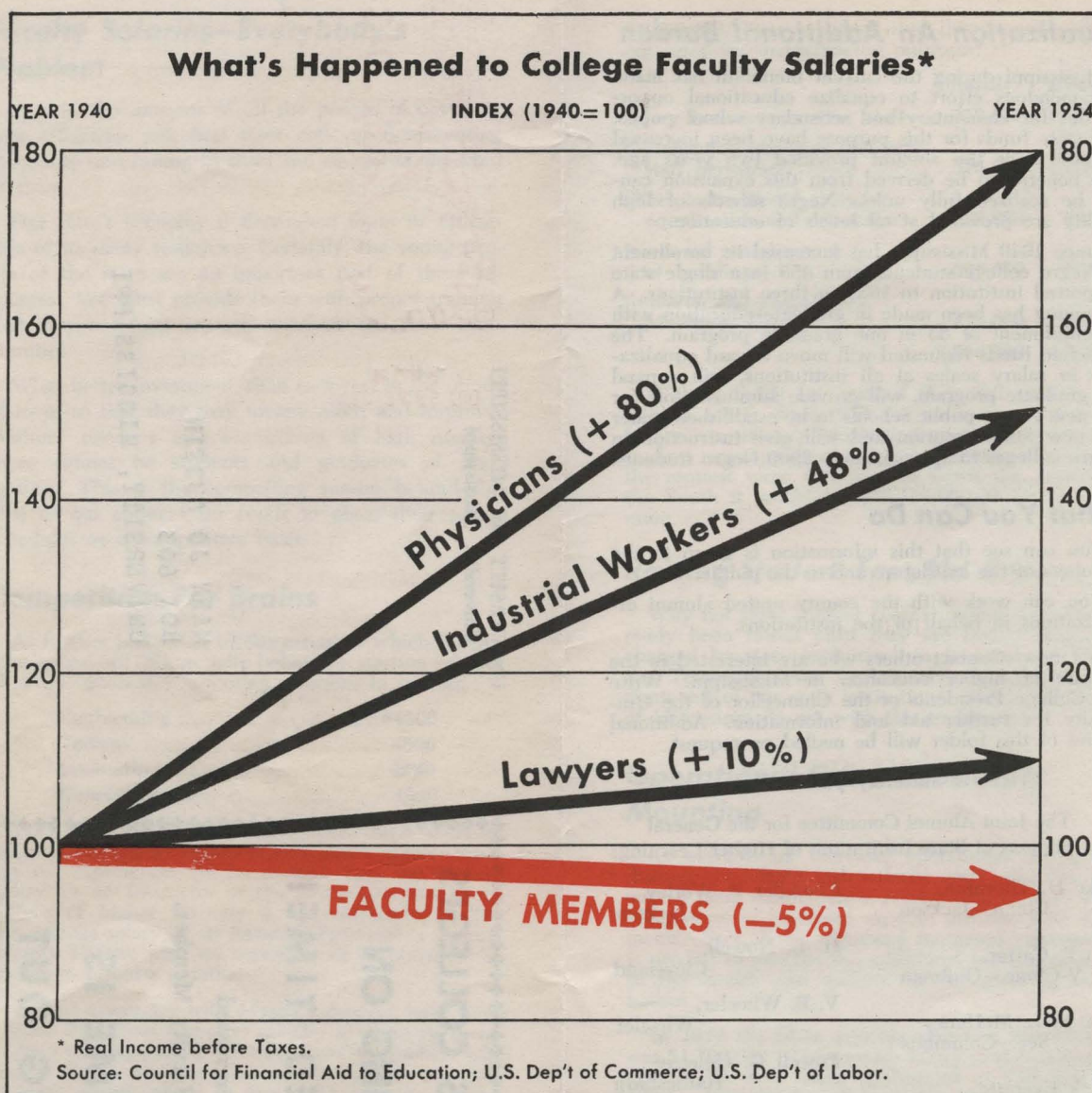
Raising Student Fees No Answer

Why not raise student fees? Student fees have already been raised until they are higher than those charged by state institutions in Louisiana, Alabama, and Tennessee. Any further increase will drive students out of our state institutions. Surely, the people of Mississippi do not wish this to happen.

Operational Costs Constantly Mounting

As enrollments increase, operational expenses—as distinguished from instructional costs—also rise. The cost of plant maintenance, record keeping, and all the other items of overhead expense increase with enrollments. Part of the requested increased appropriation is needed to provide the additional services necessary to the health and welfare of the growing student bodies.

In 1940 the State appropriation for the Biennium was \$1,700,000. The average salary paid faculty members in the five white institutions at that time was \$2238. In order to pay this amount it was necessary for the colleges to supplement the state fund with all receipts from student fees, and faculty house and dormitory rentals. As a result, buildings deteriorated at all institutions to such an extent that \$3,000,000 was expended during the six year period beginning in 1945, in an attempt to catch up with this deferred maintenance. It is clear that tremendous sums could have been saved the state if adequate appropriations had been made continuously to provide for the support of the colleges and the upkeep of the physical plants. Deferred maintenance is the most expensive. A moderate expenditure continuously for this purpose will save the state millions.



—Chart Courtesy McGRAW-HILL Publishing Co.

The chart above tells a story of profound importance to every American. It is of particular significance for every Mississippian. It is the story of the financial difficulties college and university faculty members have undergone within the past fifteen years.

On the whole, this period, from 1940 until the present, has been one of great prosperity; but, as this

chart shows, most college and university faculty members have not shared in that prosperity. During this period, the real income of the average industrial worker (that is, what his wages will purchase in goods and services) has increased by almost one-half.

Among professional groups, physicians have enjoyed an increase of about 80 per cent in real income.

Lawyers have seen their real income increase about 10 per cent. **But faculty members have had no increase in real income.** Over the nation, during these years of prosperity, their average real income has fallen by 5 per cent.

In Mississippi, during the years from 1940 to the present, a prodigious effort to get off the bottom of the scale in regard to salaries of college staff members has been made. The average salary paid in 1940 in the white institutions was \$2238. This average has been raised to \$4265. In terms of real income, however, this figure represents a decline of 3.2%.

It all adds up that our colleges are living on borrowed time—time borrowed from faculty members who have, in effect, been subsidizing these institutions by personal, financial sacrifice. This situation is not only a menace to the cultural and intellectual life of the state, it is a menace to our system of higher education at a time when it is more vitally needed than ever before.

Now we have reached a point where it is not possible to borrow more time. Our colleges are trapped between the practical limitations imposed by appropriations on the one hand and inflation on the other. This folder is an appeal for help in opening that trap.

Well Paid Teachers Safeguard Our Economy

It is an appeal for relief for our underpaid faculty members. More important, it is an appeal in behalf of the college students for adequate instruction. Finally, it is an appeal for help in safeguarding the general economy of Mississippi by enabling our colleges to continue their work so essential to progress and prosperity.

Our faculty members suffer already. Our students will be seriously handicapped if inadequate appropriations cause serious deterioration in the quality of instruction. Our entire economy will suffer if the research, extension, and instructional work being done by our colleges is not continued and expanded. That is why you are urged to lend your support to the request of the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning.

During the present biennium our colleges are operating on an appropriation of \$10,300,000. During 1951-52 they were operating on exactly the same appropriation. In the meantime enrollments in our

colleges have increased by 1924 students, or approximately 23 per cent. It is a tribute to our colleges that the demands for their services have outrun the funds that make their operation possible.

It was only by reducing some services and eliminating others that the institutions were able to maintain reasonable standards. Further reductions will jeopardize the educational future of our young people, and consequently endanger the future prosperity of our state.

Shall Mississippi Become The "Happy Hunting Ground"?

The increasing student enrollments in Mississippi's colleges soon will make it imperative that additional instructors be employed. A substantial part of the additional \$4,000,000 being requested for the next biennium will be used for this purpose. Analysis of enrollment trends in Mississippi colleges during the past four years shows the urgency of this need for more faculty members.

In 1953 enrollments in Mississippi colleges increased 12.0 per cent over 1952. In 1954 they increased 19.5 per cent over 1953. It is estimated that the enrollment in Mississippi colleges will increase an additional 50 per cent during the next ten years. Student enrollments over the nation are also expected to increase by around 80 per cent during the same period.

This means that the need for college faculty members will increase sharply in the other states of the nation. Our colleges must compete with these other schools for needed instructors. Our colleges must also withstand attempts by these schools to hire away our BETTER faculty members. Otherwise, Mississippi will become the happy hunting ground for representatives of other schools who are looking for instructors to serve their own student bodies.

Mississippi's Colleges Losing Best Teachers

The president of one of our state institutions estimates that his present faculty is currently sacrificing \$250,000 per year to remain at their posts. Many of them, he states, will never leave because of their devotion to the institution and to the State. Others, he says, are "sticking it out for a couple of years to see if their institution will be financially improved."

The conclusion is obvious. Either we prepare to lose many of our BEST instructors to schools in other states, or we put our colleges in a position to bid for the services of good faculty members as they are needed.